

50A and 50B so that the clerks in a corresponding selling area see the information displayed thereon.

The inventory computers 50A and 50B respectively serve to function as the remote management apparatus 50 of FIG 1. The inventory computer 50A includes a communication controller 51A, a management display 53A, a mouse 54A, an image expansion device 57A, and an image compression device 58A. Similarly, the inventory computer 50B includes a communication controller 51B, a management display 53B, a mouse 54B, an image expansion device 57B, and an image compression device 58B. In practice, the inventory computers 50A and 50B are personal computers, each having a LAN board or the like therein, and realize functions of respective elements by executing predetermined software (program). The communication controllers 51A and 51B, the image expansion devices 57A and 57B, and the image compression devices 58A and 58B appear external of the inventory computers 50A and 50B in FIG. 2, but are actually built in the inventory computers 50A and 50B.

The communication controllers 51A and 51B respectively serve to function as at least the image receiver 51 and the instruction transmitter 52 of FIG 1. The communication controllers 51A and 51B receive instructions from the communication

controller 12B, and transmit instructions from an inventory employee, a marked image, and a result of counting of object commodities to the control computer 10A or the clerk computer 10B.

5           The communication controller 51A is communicably connected to the control computer 10A and the clerk computer 10B via the modem 51a and the telephone line 60. The communication controller 51B is communicably connected to the control computer 10A and the clerk computer 10B via the LAN 40. The modem 51a may be built in the inventory computer 50A.

10           The image extension devices 57A and 57B respectively expand a compressed image (of a selling area) that has been received from control computer 10A, where an image data of the selling area has been compressed.

15           The management displays 53A and 53B respectively function as at least the management display 53 of FIG. 1, and display an image of a selling area, which image is received from the control computer 10A, so that an inventory employee (an operator, or an inventory operator) sees information thereon.

20           An inventory employee sees an image of a selling area displayed on the management display 53A or 53B, whereupon the employee operates the mouse

54A or 54B to count object commodities or to confirm the expiration date of an individual object commodity, as described later. Further, an inventory employee transmits various instructions to the inventory computers 50A and 50B, the control computer 10A and the clerk computer 10B, as required.

The mice 54A and 54B are operated by inventory employees, and respectively serve to function as the pointing device 54 of FIG. 1. An inventory employee clicks the mouse 54A or 54B on an image of an individual object commodity which image is displayed on the management display 53A or 53B to point to the image of the individual object commodity.

The inventory computers 50A and 50B respectively realize the supplemental functions performed by the marker 55 and the counter 56 by executing predetermined software (program).

At that time, the marker 55 labels the taken image of the individual object commodity, which image has been pointed to by the mouse 54A or 54B, with either one of a predetermined mark or a predetermined special mark as described with reference to FIG. 1. For example, with a cursor pointing to an image of an individual object commodity, a single click on the image labels the image of the individual object commodity with the